

C.W. BILL YOUNG
10TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS

SELECT INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT PANEL

www.house.gov/young

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910

July 23, 2010

2407 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0910
(202) 225-5961

DISTRICT OFFICES:
SUITE 1480
360 CENTRAL AVENUE
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701-3836
(727) 893-3191

9210 113TH STREET
SEMINOLE, FL 33772-2800
(727) 384-6950

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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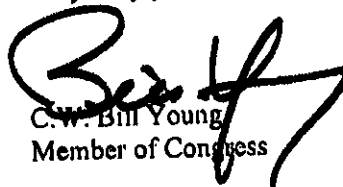
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Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is to inform you of my strong support for the letter sent to you today from several members in Congress, including Representative Israel and Representative King, urging you to quickly issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on reforming and updating existing retransmission consent rules. Due to a communication failure I was unable to sign on to the original letter but wanted to ensure you were aware of my support. I have included a copy of the letter for your review and look forward to reviewing the expected timeline for when the Commission will initiate a proceeding on this issue.

As always, I stand ready to provide any additional information. With best wishes and warmest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,


C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On March 9, 2010, a diverse group of interests urged the Commission to reform and update the existing retransmission consent rules. The Commission recently concluded the comment period on this petition, with cable operators, satellite operators, telecommunications companies, independent programmers and public interest groups all filing in support of reform. We now urge the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Under the Commission's rules, and pursuant to the statutory provisions in the 1992 Cable Act, multichannel video programming distributors ("MVPDs") – principally cable, satellite, and telephone company video systems – and broadcasters are required to negotiate in good faith for the right to retransmit local broadcast signals. For many years, these negotiations were concluded smoothly.


Increasingly, however, these negotiations are breaking down. Broadcasters claim they are not sufficiently compensated for their signals, and MVPDs claim they are trying to keep programming costs down. We have serious concerns with the harm these disputes are having on our constituents, who either lose access to broadcast programming or bear the increased costs of such programming in the form of more expensive bills from their pay-TV provider.

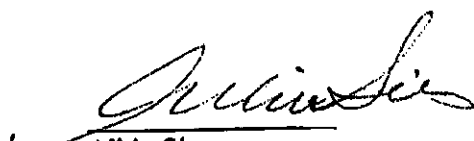
Given the harm to consumers under the current system, and considering the significant marketplace developments since the retransmission consent regime was created in 1992, we believe that it is time for the Commission to reexamine its rules governing retransmission consent and act to protect consumers.


We urge the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to protect consumer access to broadcast programming. We ask that you respond with the expected timing for when the Commission will initiate a proceeding on this issue.

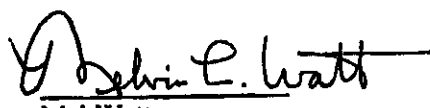
Sincerely,

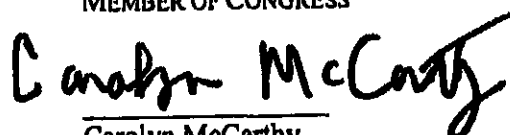

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

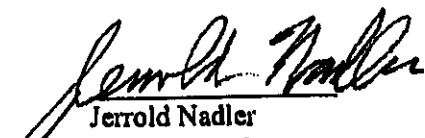

Peter King
Member of Congress

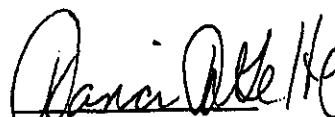

Albio Sires
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

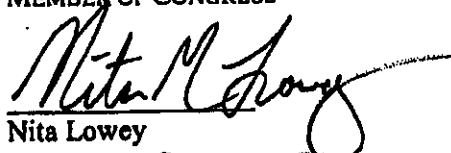

Steve Rothman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Mel Watt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

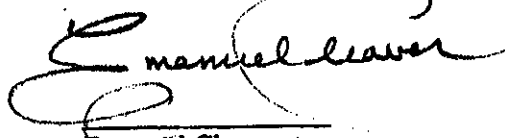

Carolyn McCarthy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Jerrold Nadler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Diana DeGette
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Nita Lowey
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Rush Holt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Emanuel Cleaver
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Tim Bishop
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Ed Perlmutter
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable C. W. (Bill) Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

As you noted, the period established for public comment on the *Petition* recently closed. The Commission's Media Bureau is reviewing the record compiled in the proceeding to develop recommendations for Commission consideration. Given the importance of this matter to a wide range of consumers and businesses, we intend to treat this matter seriously.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Genachowski", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Julius Genachowski